THE DECLARATION

Of his Highneſſe

PRINCE *CHARLES*,

TO

All *His Majeſties* loving Subjects, concerning the grounds and ends of His preſent Engagement upon the FLEET in the *Downs*.

WITH

His Highneſſe LETTER

TO

The *Lord Major*, *Aldermen*, and *Common Councell* of the City of LONDON.

LONDON.
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The DECLARATION of His Highneſſe Prince CHARLES.

HOw naturally and ſtrongly our particular intereſt inclineth us to contribute our utmoſt endeavours towards the ſetling of a wel-grounded laſting Peace, in all his Majeſtics Dominions, is notoriouſly evident to every man of common underſtanding, that conſidereth the relation we have to them, as Heire apparent to the Crown, together with the meaſure of our preſent ſuffrings, and the portion which we are to exſpect, in ſuch a happy ſetlement? Beſides which particular conſideration, we find our ſelf charged with a more publick duty, both to the KING our Father in His preſent diſtreſſe, as likewiſe to all His loyall Subjects, in this their common calamity, obliging us to lay hold on all opportunities which ſhall be offered us, proper to obtain this bleſſed Peace, that onely being to free His Majeſty and all His good people from their preſent ſuffrings, and to reſtore, Him and them, to that happineſſe, which the practices, power, and violence of evil men (the now Enemies of Peace) have bereav'd them of. This bleſſed Peace is that which we humbly and earneſtly implore of Almighty God in our dayly Prayers; and which is, and ſhall be the principall and ultimate end of all our Counſels and reſolutions, and particularly of this our preſent undertaking, on which we beg a bleſſing of the God of Peace, as this our profeſſion is reall and ſincere. Neither ought it to ſeem ſtrange to any, that thus profeſſing for Peace, We now appear in Armes as well in perſon at Sea, as likewiſe by our correſpondency and Commiſſions at Land, ſince the malice and wicked Arts of theſe Peace-haters (againſt whom we now declare, as publick Enemies to God and good men) have rendered all other endeavours to obtain the ſame, vain and ineffectuall, and thereby (utterly obſtructing all means of reconciliation betwixt His Majeſty and His People) have compelled us to this laſt,

and indeed onely expedient that is left us. So that being thus necessitated, either to sit still as unconcern'd whilst the KING our Father is a *close Prisoner* in the power of His Enemies, and whilst all His good people lie miserably groaning under the cruell Tyranny of fellow Subjects, or by force of Armes, to endeavour to free Him and them from these unheard-of outrages, as our election in this case is easily made; so ought all men to look upon us thus engaged, as acting in order to that Peace, and prosecuting the onely means left to obtain the same. Being thus rightly understood, by those whose Interest as well as their duty obligeth them to joyn with us in this good work, as we shall in the first place look up to Heaven for a blessing from the Lord of Hosts on this good Cause; so we shall desire and expect, the ready and cheerfull assistance, of the hearts and hands of all His Majesties good Subjects, as opportunity effectually to appear with and for us, shall be offered to them. And that the usuall cunning Arts of their and our Enemies may not abuse any of them with false suggestions, or mis-interpretations of our proceedings, We hereby, with that candor and sincerity, which becomes a Christian and a Prince, do declare and publish to the whole world, That the true grounds, reasons and ends of this our Engagement, are these hereafter mentioned, and none other. 1. *The honour of Gods holy name, in the defence of the true Protestant Religion, and his Divine worship, against all Opposers whatsoever, and particularly against all Heresies, Schismes, and scandulous Doctrines,* 2. *The restoring of His Majesty to His Liberty and just Rights, and in order thereunto, and for the setling of a happy Peace, a speedy Personall Treaty with his Majesty with Honour, Freedome, and Safety.* 3. *The support and defence of the known Laws of the Kingdome.* 4. *The maintenance of the Freedome and just Priviledgs of Parliament.* 5. *The defence of the Liberty and Property of the Subject, against all violence, repine, and oppression, such as are Excise, Contribution, Free-quarter, and all other illegall Taxes.* 6. *The obtaining of such an Act of Oblivion and Indempnity, as may most firmly bind up the bond of Peace.* 7. *The speedy disbanding of all Armies, and particularly that under the command of the Lord* Fairfax. 8. *The defence of the Honour of the English Nation, and His Majesties Rights in the Narrow Seas, the protection and security of the Trade of all His Majesties loyall Subjects, the support of the Navy Royall, and the encouragement of all the Officers and Mariners of the same; to whose exemplary*

emplary courage, conduct, and good affections, we owe this present opportunity, with them thus to appear for Peace.

And now having thus fully and sincerely declared our intentions and resolutions, we earnestly invite, and by the authority as well inherent in our Person, during His Majesties restraint, as also derived particularly and formally from Him under the Great Seale of *England*, do require and command all His Majesties loyall Subjects, heartily to joyn and associate themselves with us in this our undertaking, and with force of Armes under Us, as likewise by all other good meuns in their power, to oppose and resist all such persons and Forces, as well by Land as Sea, as shall oppose Us and this blessed, Peace; As likewise, to be aiding and assisting to all such as are now in Arms against those Enemies of Peace, and particularly to encourage, aide and relieve as friends and Brethren the *Scots Army*, now on their March for His Majesties rescue; of whose loyalty to His Majesty, and good affections to the Kingdome of *England*, we are fully satisfied. And we more especially exhort the City of *London*, and the Port-towns of *England* (upon whose Actions the Eyes of the whole Kingdome are particularly fixed) by their good example to encourage all the people of *England*, manfully to shake off the heavy yoke now imposed on them by force of Armes, as on a Conquered Nation, and in stead of that lawlesse power which now depriveth them of the security of their Persons, and the property of their Goods and Estates, to vindicate the just Rights of Free-born Subjects of *England*, in seeking their protection under the Government of their undoubted Soveraign Lord our loyall Father, and the Law of the Land. Upon these foundations by the blessing of God, on the cheerfull and effectuall concurrence of the now undeceived People of *England*, we shall yet hope for such a speedy conclusion of the present distractions, as may prevent the further unnaturall effusion of Christian and English bloud, and the miseries of a new Warre. To which end, that all prejudices whatsoever (so far as possibly shall be in our power) may be removed: We further declare, That we shall not onely willingly decline the unpleasing memory of all that is past, so far as may concern any, who upon this our invitation shall return to their duty; but shall very particularly accept of, and esteem the persons and assistance of those (howsoever formerly mis-led) which shall now joyn with us: And in particular we hereby promise, that all such Officers and Souldiers in the Lord *Fairfax's* Army (without exception) as likewise all such

Officers

Officers and Sea-men with the Earl of *Warwick* (of the good affections of moſt of whom we are well aſſured) as ſhall, upon the firſt proper opportunity quit that their engagement, ſhall be fully ſatisfied of their Pay and Arrears due unto them, with aſſurance of ſuch Indempnity as they ſhall propound, they ſhall be ſafely received into our protection and care. In the laſt place, we ſhall deſire, that no intereſſed perſons will miſinterpret the preſent ſtop of any Veſſels, or Merchandiſes now made by us here in the *Downes*, our intention not being to break bulk, or alter the property of the Owners thereof, except we ſhall be compelled thereunto by the refuſall of ſuch reaſonable and neceſſary ſupport for our Navy, as may enable them and us to ſubſiſt, and proceed in our preſent undertaking. Which demand of ours (herewith ſent to the City of *London*) we hope no man will think unreaſonable, that conſiders, that by the Laws of the Land and the practice of all times, the Cuſtomes and Sea-duties have been granted and ought to be employed for the maintenance of the KING's Navy, as the proper and naturall proviſion for the ſame.

And now for concluſion of what we have to ſay, We conjure all the good Subjects of *England*, by the duty they owe to God and man, and by all that is pretious to themſelves, that they be not diſcouraged in their attempt to free the Nation from the Tyranny they live under, by obtaining (maugre all oppoſition) this bleſſed Peace (it being viſible to all men, and confeſſed even by thoſe that live upon the ſpoyle of the People, that nothing but a ſpeedy Peace can preſerve the Kingdome from utter ruine) but on the contrary, that they joyn and aſſociate themſelves as one man againſt the power and practiſes of all perſons whatſoever, who under ſpecious pretences propoſe to themſelves their particular ambitious ends, in the change of the happy Government of *England*, which if not thus prevented, will neceſſitate not onely the continuance of the preſent miſeries, but will entail the ſame to poſterity, and kindle a bloudy War for many Generations to come; which God of his mercy divert.

To

To our right trusty and wel-beloved, and to our trusty and wel-beloved, the *Lord Major, Aldermen*, and *Common Councell* of the City of *London*.

Right trusty and Wel-beloved, and trusty and Wel-beloved, We greet you well. We have endeavoured by our publick Declaration (*which We send you herewith*) *to give satisfaction to the whole Kingdome of* England, *in the grounds and reasons of our present undertaking. But we think fit notwithstanding to make a particular addresse to you* (*as the most considerable part of the Kingdome*) *being extreamly desirous that the City of* London *should be fully satisfied, that our intentions are just and honourable, and such as we have professed in our said Declaration, for the peace and happinesse of all His Majestics Subjects. And We cannot despair of gaining a belief and confidence with you, when it shall appear that our Actions and proceedings are conformable to our professions, and in order to those publick ends and that happy setlement of the Kingdome, which We have proposed as the chief end of all our endeavours. And because there are divers Ships now stayed in the* Downes *by our order,* (*whereof some of great value belong to Members of the City of* London) *and to prevent all mis-interpretation of our intentions in that particular We think fit to assure you, that we are so far from intending violence to the persons or goods of any of that City, or any other particular advantage therein, that our onely aime and end is to procure a subsistance for the Navy under our command, that thereby We may be enabled to protect the Ships, Vessels, and Goods, and to secure the Trade, not onely of the City of* London, *but of all other His Majesties good Subjects. And being for the present utterly unable to provide for so great a charge, as having been for some years deprived as well of our own Estate, as of the supplies we might have drawn from the bounty of the* KING *our Royall Father, We think fit to have recourse to you, desiring you to supply Us with the present summe of* 200001. *to be imployed*

[illegible] *Lappers and Subsistence of the Kings now under Our Government, To which end we shall put the same into the hands of such persons, as shall tender an exact accompt thereof (which shall be communicated to you) And being thus furnished by you in this necessity, for which we have no other means to make provision, We shall immediately discharge all Ships of Merchandise, which have been stayed by our Fleet, though of a far greater value then the summe we desire, and shall carefully hereafter protect the Ships and Goods, and secure the Trade and commerce of that City, which we conceive to be one of the proper and naturall imployments of His Majesties Navy, and for which, as for other reasons, it hath alwayes been maintained out of the Customes paid to His Majesty, out of which as soon as it shall be in our power, We shall take care to have the said summe of 20000l. repaid you. And so desiring a present supply, the pressing necessities of the Fleet admitting no delay, We bid you heartily farewell.*

Given under our hand and Seale, the 29 of *July*, in the 24 year of the Reigne of our Royall Father the King.

FINIS.